(a) whether the Government are contemplating to make use of nuclear energy in converting the saline water into drinking water;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which it is likely to be started; and

(d) the amount likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) A nuclear desalination demonstration plant of 6300 cubic and metre per day capacity, based on combined Multi Stage.

(b) Flash - Reverse Osmosis desalination process and using power and low-pressure steam generated by the Madras Atomic Power Station, Kalpakkam is proposed to be set up at Kalpakkam in Tamil Nadu during the IX plan.

(c) The Plant is expected to be completed during the calendar year 2001, subject to approval for the project being received expeditiously and adequate Plan outlay being available during the IX Plan period.

(d) The estimated expenditure of the project is Rs. 3097 lakh.

[English]

Nuclear Thermal Rockets

2256. SHRI N. RAMAKRISHNA REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Scientists have worked on Nuclear Thermal Rockets;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Government propose to launch their own space satellite like INSAT-2D?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Geo-synchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) with a capability to launch Indian National Satellite System-2 (INSAT-2) class of satellites in the required orbit is under development. The first development flight of GSLV is planned during 1998.

MPLADS Subsidiaries

2257. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether as per guidelines of MPLADS, Member of Parliament can give financial assistance for repairs, renovation and construction of schools even if the land on which the building is built belongs to a Trust;

(b) whether the Member of Parliament can also give financial assistance for procurement of benches for sitting of students of a school which belongs to a Trust;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether the Government propose to review the guidelines and make necessary provision for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA. D. SAVANOOR) : (a) to (d) As per guidelines of MPLADS, the scheme funds cannot be spent on repairs and renovation unless it is a special repair for restoration/upgradation of any durable asset. The guidelines also do not permit purchase of inventory or stock of any type. The benches for sitting of students of a school, therefore, cannot be procured under the scheme.

(e) the guidelines were recently revised in February, 1997. There is no proposal at present with the Government to revise these further.

[Translation]

Review of Functioning of CBI

2258. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :
SHRI V.V. RAGHVAN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Bureau of Investigation in the recent past has failed to substantiate the charges of corruption against several charge-sheeted persons;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether any review of the functioning of C.B.I. has been made; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) and (b) Recently, a few persons charge-sheeted in the Jain Hawala Case have been discharged by the Courts. A Special Leave Petition, has already been filed in the Hon'ble Supreme Court against the order of the Hon'ble Delhi High Court and a few more Petitions are being filed in the Hon'ble Supreme Court against the orders of the Trial Court. The matter, therefore, is sub-judice.

(c) and (d) Review of functioning of the Central Bureau of investigation, as in the case of any Government organisation, is a continuous process and appropriate action is taken accordingly.

[English]

MPLADS

2259. SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work relating to digging of proposed pumps through Members of Parliament local area development fund in Satna and surrounding area is not being undertaken;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any guidelines for execution of such work has since been laid down;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps the Government propose to take to get the works done through Member of Parliament local area development fund at cheaper rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA. D. SAVANOOR) : (a) and (b) The District Collector Satna had expressed some practical difficulties in executing the work relating to digging of handpumps under MPLADS in Satna through Gram Panchayat as suggested by Hon'ble Member of Parliament Shri Sukh Lal Kushwaha. He has been informed suitably by the Government.

(c) to (e) As per the revised guidelines the implementing agencies under the scheme can be either Government or Panchayati Raj Institutions or any other reputed non-government Organisation who may be considered by the District Head as capable of implementing the work satisfactorily. The District Head is required to select the implementing agency keeping in view the cost and quality of the proposed work.

Chicory in Coffee Products

2260. SHRI K. PRASURAMAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether daily consumption of chicory even in small quantity is injurious to health;

(b) whether larger percentage of chicory is mixed in the coffee products like 'Bru', 'Sunrise', 'Tata Coffee' etc; and

(c) if so, the action the Government propose to take to prevent large-scale use of chicory in coffee products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) Chicory conforming to the specifications laid down under Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955 is not injurious to health.

(b) to (c) Standards for coffee and chicory mixture have been laid down under Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955. The quantity of chicory for mixing with coffee has been restricted while laying down the specifications of coffee-chicory mixture. However, enforcement of the provisions of PFA Act and Rules there under is the direct responsibility of the concerned State Governments/Union Territories.

[Translation]

Legislation of Family Planning

2261. SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for not bringing before Parliament the Bill covering Members of Parliament and Members of Legislative Assembly under Family Planning, after its introduction in the House and subsequent reference to the Standing Committee of the Health Ministry;

(b) whether a provision has been made in the proposed Bill regarding electoral reforms for disqualifying the Member of Parliament and Legislators having more than two children; and

(c) if so, the time by which the said Bill is likely to be passed?